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# World Production and Trade

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Foreign  
Agricultural  
Service

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Weekly  
Roundup

WR 5-85

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The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following developments in world agriculture and trade:

## TRADE NOTES

Effective Jan. 1, 1985, a new slate of EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) Commissioners was installed to manage the EC's affairs in Brussels for the next five years. Jacques Delors, a former French finance minister, was named president of the 14-member Commission, succeeding Gaston Thorn. Taking over the position of Commissioner for Agriculture is Frans Andriessen of the Netherlands, who is one of the holdover members from the previous Commission, where he had responsibility for the EC's competition policy and Commission relations with the European Parliament.

The EC also announced that former West German State Secretary for Agriculture Hans-Jurgen Rohr has been designated special advisor to Commissioner Andriessen. Rohr is considered one of the foremost experts on the EC's Common Agricultural Policy.

## GRAIN AND FEED

The U.S. agricultural counselor in Pretoria estimates 1984/85 corn production in SOUTH AFRICA at 6.5 million tons, 1 million tons or 13 percent below the USDA January estimate, but 46 percent above the drought-devastated 1983/84 crop. Widespread rains in mid-January generally improved crop prospects; however, the rains arrived too late to prevent irreversible damage to a portion of the crop. This year's crop has been affected by periods of high temperatures, hail and frost, which together with the dry conditions have progressively lowered corn yield prospects. The size of this year's harvest remains highly dependent on weather during the next several weeks.

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The U.S. agricultural counselor in Belgrade estimates 1984/85 corn production in YUGOSLAVIA at a record 11.3 million tons, 5 percent above a year ago and 1 percent above the previous record crop harvested in 1982/83. Corn area in 1984/85 is estimated at 2.33 million hectares, up 3 percent from 1983/84. Average corn yield is estimated at 4.83 tons per hectare, up from the 4.73-ton average a year ago, but slightly below the record yield of 4.95 harvested in 1982/83.

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## OILSEEDS AND PRODUCTS

The U.S. agricultural counselor in Mexico City has confirmed 14,000 tons of the reported 50,000-60,000-ton sale of AUSTRALIAN sunflowerseed to MEXICO, the largest U.S. sunflowerseed market. Additional purchases will depend on CONASUPO's (the Mexican buying agency) satisfaction with the commodity. USDA forecasts Mexican sunflowerseed imports at 500,000 tons from all sources in 1984/85. Except for a shipment of about 90,000 tons of Argentine sunflowerseed in 1984, the United States has in the past supplied all of Mexico's imports of this commodity.

## DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

The U.S. agricultural counselor in Paris reports that FRENCH cattle numbers fell 2.5 percent during 1984 to 23 million due largely to the 12-percent rise in cow slaughter because of the EC Dairy Reform Program. Dairy cow numbers were reduced by 5 percent during 1984 to 6.8 million while beef cow numbers increased about 3 percent to 3.0 million. In 1985, cow slaughter is expected to drop but remain above 1983 levels. The sharp rise in French cow slaughter during 1984 caused beef and veal production to expand 12 percent to 2.0 million tons, a new record. For 1985, production is expected to fall 4 percent to 1.9 million tons.

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CONASUPO, Mexico's government food purchasing agency, recently made purchases of medium and high-heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) totaling 90,900 tons for delivery through September 1985. Suppliers included New Zealand--20,700 tons, Ireland--22,000 tons, United Kingdom--23,200 tons, Canada--15,000 tons and the United States--10,000 tons.

The U.S. sale, announced Jan. 11, 1985, came from government-owned Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stocks. The sale price was \$740 per ton delivered f.o.b. railcar at U.S./Mexican border points. The sale provides for payment in U.S. dollars with no credit arrangements involved. Deliveries are to be made in February.

In recent years, the United States had been acquiring an increasing share of the Mexican market. But since CONASUPO tendered only for medium and high-heat NDM on this purchase, CCC was able to sell only 10,000 tons. Offers of low-heat NDM were rejected. Contrarily, Mexico is currently accepting delivery of low-heat NDM under the Section 416 donation program. Uncommitted CCC inventories as of January 11 totaled nearly 518,000 tons of largely low-heat NDM.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Recent freezing temperatures that blanketed most of the European continent caused extensive damage to SPAIN's citrus and vegetable crops, according to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Madrid. Based on preliminary reports, citrus losses are expected to total about 700,000 tons, approximately 20 percent of the pre-freeze forecast of 3.4 million tons. Losses to oranges and tangerines are preliminarily estimated at 450,000 to 500,000 tons and losses to lemons at 150,000 to 175,000 tons. Although too early to judge definitively, substantial citrus tree damage is also thought to have occurred. The cold temperatures also damaged artichokes, tomatoes and lettuce. More detailed assessments of the freeze damage will be released when available.

## COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA

MALAYSIA's 1984/85 cocoa production is estimated at 125,000 tons, up 4 percent from the October USDA estimate and 40 percent more than a year ago, according to the U.S. agricultural attache in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian government has given high priority to the cocoa sector in recent years as production has increased by more than tenfold since 1973/74 when output was 10,480 tons. Two surges of cocoa tree plantings, one in the late 1970s and a second in 1981-83, have resulted in 225,000 hectares of cocoa trees in 1984, compared with 27,808 in 1974. Production should continue expanding rapidly as these young trees mature.



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**Selected International Prices**

Item	: Jan. 29, 1985	: Change from	: A year
:	:	: previous week	: ago
ROTTERDAM PRICES 1/			
	\$ per MT	\$ per bu.	\$ per MT
Wheat:			
Canadian No. 1 CWRS-13.5%.9/	188.00	5.12	+1.50
U.S. No. 2 DNS/NS: 14%....	183.00	4.98	0
U.S. No. 2 S.R.W. ....	164.50	4.48	-.50
U.S. No. 3 H.A.D.....9/	184.00	5.01	+1.00
Canadian No. 1 A: Durum.9/	193.50	5.27	0
Feed grains:			
U.S. No. 3 Yellow Corn....	134.00	3.40	-3.00
Soybeans and meal:			
U.S. No. 2 Yellow.....	248.50	6.76	-.50
Brazil 47/48% SoyaPellets 4/	180.00	--	-3.00
U.S. 44% Soybean Meal....	166.00	--	-3.00
U.S. FARM PRICES 3/			
Wheat.....	123.08	3.35	-1.47
Barley.....	84.51	1.84	0
Corn.....	103.54	2.63	-.79
Sorghum.....	91.71	4.16 2/	-.66
Broilers 4/.....	1160.50	--	-4.19
EC IMPORT LEVIES			
Wheat 5/.....	43.75	1.19	+1.85
Barley.....	54.30	1.18	+.65
Corn.....	43.55	1.11	+.40
Sorghum.....	50.45	1.28	+2.50
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/.....	155.00	--	+1.00
EC INTERVENTION PRICES 7/			
Common wheat(feed quality)	138.85	3.78	+.15
Bread wheat (min. quality)7/	147.80	4.02	+.15
-Barley and all			
other feed grains.....	138.85	--	+.15
Broilers 4/ 6/.....	1031.00	--	+2.00
EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS (subsidies)			
Wheat .....	N.Q.	--	--
Barley.....	28.70	.62	+.80
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/.....	91.00	--	0

1/ Asking prices in U.S. dollars for imported grain and soybeans, c.i.f., Rotterdam. 2/ Hundredweight (CWT). 3/ Twelve-city average, wholesale weighted average. 4/ EC category--70 percent whole chicken. 5/ Reflects lower EC export subsidy--down to 20.00 ECU/100 bag effective 9/14/83 from 22.50 ECU/100 bag set in 2/83. 6/ F.o.b. price for R.T.C. broilers at West German border. 7/ Reference price. 8/ Reflects change in level set by EC. 9/ April-May.  
N.A.=None authorized. N.Q.=Not quoted. Note: Basis February delivery.